

Appl. No. 10/693,353  
Amdt. Dated Apr. 1, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of Mar. 8, 2005

**Remarks/Arguments**

Claim 1 is cancelled with prejudice as being directed to a non-elected invention, the restriction having been traversed in the response of 2/21/05.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 24-26 and 31 are considered to be directed to allowable subject matter if written in independent form.

Accordingly, claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 24 and is, therefore, thought to be allowable. Further, claim 18 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 25 and is, therefore, thought to be allowable.

Claims 13-24 and 26-31 are now presented for consideration.

Claim 26 objected to for lack of proper antecedent basis for the term "bearing" has been amended to depend from claim 18.

Claim 13 has been amended to call for a guide, a tube and a base. The base is set forth as having radially extending grooves about its lower surface venting air from said tube during flight of said missile.

In the remarks, the Examiner states that both Lampinen and Coelus teach a guide with a base but fail to teach each groove acting to vent air during free flight of the missile through the tube as called for in claim 24.

Claim 13, as now amended, includes this limitation and is now considered to be allowable.

The remarks further state that no cited reference disclose a missile including a bearing about its circumference separating it from the tube.

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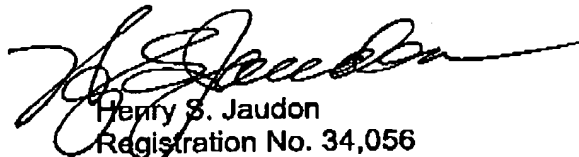
Claim 14, as now amended, includes this limitation and is now considered to be allowable.

Claims 14-17 depend from claim 13 and are believed allowable, as is claim 13. Claims 19-24 and 26-31 depend from claim 18 and are believed to be allowable, as is claim 18.

The patents to Coelus '890; Lampinen, et al '264; Wood, et al '263; Raines, et al '240; Chumley, et al '870; Smock, et al '535; Mahaffey, et al '249; and Hogan '411 have each been considered and are not believed to anticipate the claims as now presented for the above stated reasons. Accordingly, further comment is deemed to be not necessary.

It is respectfully urged that, upon reconsideration, the Examiner find the claims to be allowable and pass the case to issue in the due course of PTO business.

Respectfully submitted,



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